UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.96/846/Part I/9
18 July 1995

Original: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

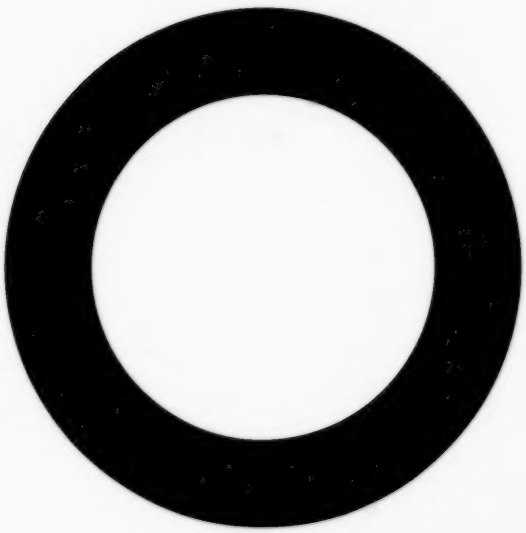
UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART I. AFRICA

Section 9 - Ghana

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02234



I.9 GHANA

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, Ghana hosted 113,700 refugees, comprising 97,700 Togolese, 15,900 Liberians and less than 50 persons of various other nationalities. All Togolese refugees are assisted by UNHCR. While some 15,000 are accommodated in Klikor camp in Denu District, the majority live in villages spread across the Volta Region. The significant reduction in the Togolese refugee population (there were 135,000 in 1993) is a result of the registration exercise conducted in April 1994, which excluded some 40,000 commuters between Togo and Ghana. Gomoa Buduburam camp, 35 kilometres north of Accra, accommodates 13,900 Liberian refugees. They receive UNHCR assistance, while some 2,000 living outside the camp are not assisted by UNHCR. More than 70 per cent of the refugees are women and children under the age of 16 years. Most of the refugees of both groups are of urban or semi-urban background. UNHCR also provided assistance to some of the 174,000 internally displaced persons through the course of 1994, most of whom were affected by ethnic conflict in northern Ghana in early 1994.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

2. During 1994, the situation in Togo improved significantly. An amnesty law was promulgated in December 1994, diplomatic relations between Togo and Ghana were resumed, and the border between the two countries was reopened in December after having been closed for two years. A series of negotiations were held between the two Governments and UNHCR regarding voluntary repatriation of Togolese refugees. However, the refugees in Ghana appear to be awaiting the implementation of the amnesty law. UNHCR currently assists persons wishing to repatriate spontaneously and is preparing for an organized repatriation which may begin in late 1995 or early 1996.

3. In an effort to promote self-reliance among the refugees, it is planned to gradually reduce food aid, and emphasize agriculture and income-generation activities. However, reducing the food basket for Togolese refugees living outside the camp in the Volta region has resulted in a drastic increase in the camp population at Klikor.

4. While awaiting the voluntary repatriation of Togolese refugees and in the absence of repatriation possibilities for the Liberian refugees, care and maintenance assistance will be continued at least until the end of 1995.

5. An allocation from the 1994 Emergency Fund provided emergency assistance to some of the 174,000 persons internally displaced as a result of land disputes in northern Ghana. While most people returned home after the reconciliatory meeting in April 1994 and re-established their lives, renewed ethnic clashes in March 1995 indicated that the problem had not been solved.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

6. The lack of progress towards peace in Liberia makes large-scale repatriation to Liberia unlikely in 1995. UNHCR will monitor closely the peace process in Liberia and assess the conditions for voluntary repatriation of Libe refugees from Ghana. While the care and maintenance project at the Buduburam c will continue in 1996, UNHCR will facilitate the voluntary repatriation of individual Liberians. For those who do not opt for repatriation, possibilities resettlement or local settlement will be explored. UNHCR assistance in 1996 wi continue to aim at promoting self-reliance of refugees pending the identificati of durable solutions.

7. The recent political developments in Togo may encourage more Togolese refugees to opt for repatriation. Should the situation in 1996 allow a large-s repatriation, a special appeal for funds may be necessary to facilitate organiz repatriation. In the meantime, UNHCR will continue to provide care and mainten assistance to Togolese refugees in the Volta region. In spite of ongoing income-generation and crop production activities, the refugees have not yet bee able to become self-reliant and these sectors will continue to be given priorit 1996.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

(i) General Programmes

8. **Care and maintenance**: Due to the uncertain situation in both countries origin of the UNHCR beneficiary population in Ghana, it is not yet possible to establish budgets for repatriation movements. Thus, the budgetary requirements the care and maintenance programme remain similar to those of 1995. The hope f progress in the voluntary repatriation of Togolese refugee is reflected in a sl reduction of the amounts foreseen for their care and maintenance. However, owi to the lack of possibilities towards voluntary repatriation of the Liberian caseload, initial requirements for the Liberian refugees remain at the current level. Should a large scale repatriation of Liberians be feasible, a downward adjustment of the care and maintenance programme will be possible.

9. Preparations are under way to plan a programme for voluntary repatriati of Togolese refugees, which could begin after a Memorandum of Understanding is signed between the Governments of Ghana, and Togo, and UNHCR. The overall requirements for such a programme will be assessed by a joint mission to the re scheduled for September 1995, following which a special appeal will be issued.

(c) Implementing partners

10. The government agency, the National Mobilization Programme, continues t be responsible for the camp management as well as for implementing various sect activities for both Togolese and Liberian refugees. The newly established government body, the National Refugee Board, became UNHCR's implementing partne

overseeing legal matters relating to refugee issues. The Ghana Red Cross Society, the National Catholic Secretariat, and Assemblies of God Development and Relief Services undertake distribution of food and domestic items. Education activities for Togolese and Liberian refugees are implemented by the Christian Council of Ghana, income-generation activities by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency for Togolese refugees, and the International Rescue Committee for Liberian refugees. Assemblies of God Development and Relief services will continue to implement health and sanitation activities.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

11. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

12. The 1994 expenditure was slightly lower than anticipated. With operations in Hohoe and Denu being covered by the Branch Office in Accra, expenditure under common staff costs were higher than expected, as staff from the Office had to remain in those areas for extended periods. This was, however, offset by savings under all other items including salaries.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

13. The revised 1995 budget is higher than foreseen mainly due to an increase in rental costs and alterations of the office premises in Denu and Hohoe. Office supplies and five additional vehicles were also required, further increasing the budget.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

14. The initial 1996 requirements are projected to be lower than in 1995, since less equipment will be required in 1996.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN GHANA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
796.1	–	–	EMERGENCY FUND	–
1,694.4	2,250.4	2,279.7	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	2,054.6
10.0 a/	–	25.7 c/	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
2.1 b/	–	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	–
0.2 b/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
713.5	576.8	801.3	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	707.9
3,216.3	2,827.2	3,106.7	SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	2,762.5
103.8	66.9	146.4	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	88.0
3,320.1	2,894.1	3,253.1	TOTAL (1)	2,850.5
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
75.6	80.8	–	. EDUCATION ACCOUNT	–
–	–	–	LIBERIA REPATRIATION/RETURNEE PROGRAMME	–
–	38.4	53.5	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	29.1
0.4	25.3	10.8	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	5.9
149.9	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
52.1	71.5	45.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	45.0
278.0	216.0	109.3	TOTAL (2)	80.0
3,598.1	3,110.1	3,362.4	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	2,930.5

a/obligation incurred against General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation
b/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes
c/allocated from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation